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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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For Immediate Release

1984 RAIL TRAFFIC INCREASES

WASHINGTON, January 8, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during 1984 totaled an estimated 916 billion ton-miles, the Association of American Railroads reported today. This total was 10.6 percent over 1983 and was the highest level since the record year of 1980, when the total was nearly 919 billion ton-miles.

The sharp increase was attributed to a stronger economy and to heavy coal loadings during the first nine months of 1984, when utilities were anticipating a possible strike in the coal-mining industry.

On a quarterly basis, ton-miles showed gains over 1983 of 17.8 percent in the first quarter, 15.3 percent in the second quarter, 11.0 percent in the third quarter and an estimated 0.2 percent in the fourth quarter. Ton-miles for the year increased in all regions: 10.1 percent in the East, 9.2 percent in the South and 11.1 percent in the West.

Carloadings for the year totaled 20,248,795, up 7.6 percent from 1983. The greater increase in ton-miles than in carloadings stemmed from a continuation of the trend toward the retirement of smaller cars -- with the resulting increases in average load per car -- and longer average hauls.

As shown in the attached table, 15 of the 21 major commodity groups increased over 1983. Coal loadings, which totaled 5,918,959

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(13.6 percent over the previous year), reached the highest level in 27 years.

Significant increases over 1983 were also reflected in 1984 loadings of the following commodities: motor vehicles and equipment, up 142,745 cars (16.5 percent); crushed stone, gravel and sand, up 84,715 cars (16.8 percent); chemicals and allied products, up 73,275 cars (6.1 percent); waste and scrap materials, up 63,112 cars (15.0 percent) and metals and products, up 42,009 cars (9.7 percent). Loadings of grain showed a gain of 38,227 cars (2.8 percent) over 1983.

Ton miles for the holiday week ended December 29 totaled 11.1 billion, 1.1 percent over the corresponding week of the previous year when Christmas fell on a Sunday. Carloadings were down 0.9 percent from 1983, and down 38.2 percent from the preceding non-holiday week of 1984.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended December 22 totaled an estimated 56,286 cars, up 24.2 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 90,538 trailers and/or containers, 13.3 percent higher than 1983.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 51 weeks of the year was 2,655,223 cars, 14.7 percent higher than 1983, and 4,511,586 trailers and/or containers, up 11.9 percent.

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/29/84:

	Loadings in Week ended Dec. 29, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	16,974	D	3,408	16.7	D	11,210	39.8
Other farm products	3,006	D	322	9.7	D	1,153	38.4
Metallic ores	8,037	D	1,259	13.5	D	3,086	38.4
Coal	65,957	I	9,639	17.1	D	46,693	70.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	5,830	I	1,517	35.2	D	3,281	56.3
Nonmetallic minerals	8,589	I	202	2.4	D	1,757	20.5
Grain mill products	7,421	D	810	9.8	D	3,118	42.0
Food and kindred products	7,107	D	386	5.2	D	3,833	53.9
Primary forest products	6,773	D	400	5.6	D	5,584	82.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	4,216	D	253	5.7	D	3,152	74.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	9,258	D	1,045	10.1	D	5,784	62.5
Chemicals and allied products	19,800	D	304	1.5	D	5,431	27.4
Petroleum products	3,390	D	272	7.4	D	1,660	49.0
Stone, clay and glass products	6,727	I	783	13.2	D	2,489	37.0
Coke	3,536	D	658	15.7	D	1,025	29.0
Metals and products	4,956	D	2,693	35.2	D	2,479	50.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	7,676	I	44	0.6	D	11,893	154.9
Waste and scrap materials	4,450	D	433	8.9	D	3,445	77.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	4,456	D	1,351	23.3	D	2,301	51.6
All other carloads	35,399	D	638	1.8	D	25,109	70.9
LCL traffic	91	D	66	42.0	D	82	90.0
Total Cars Loaded	233,649	D	2,113	0.9	D	144,565	38.2
Corresponding week of 1983	235,762						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (52 weeks)	20,248,795	18,814,584	I 7.6
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
51 weeks ended December 22	904.7	817.3	I 10.7
Week ended December 29	11.1	11.0	I 1.1
52 weeks cumulative	915.9	828.3	I 10.6

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Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for 52 weeks of 1984 and 1983:

	1984	1983		Incr/Decr. 1984 vs. 1983	
	Cars	Cars		Cars	Percent
Grain	1,417,328	1,379,101	I	38,227	2.8
Other farm products	208,974	207,337	I	1,637	0.8
Metallic ores	850,345	822,544	I	27,801	3.4
Coal	5,918,959	5,210,272	I	708,687	13.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	587,610	502,895	I	84,715	16.8
Nonmetallic minerals	608,499	585,534	I	22,965	3.9
Grain mill products	547,597	591,937	D	44,340	7.5
Food and kindred products	560,367	610,318	D	49,951	8.2
Primary forest products	697,496	738,104	D	40,608	5.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	372,131	366,475	I	6,656	1.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	762,936	777,283	D	14,347	1.8
Chemicals and allied products	1,272,349	1,199,074	I	73,275	6.1
Petroleum products	247,735	239,175	I	8,560	3.6
Stone, clay and glass products	560,438	530,958	I	29,480	5.6
Coke	264,664	261,441	I	3,223	1.2
Metals and products	475,393	433,384	I	42,009	9.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	1,009,992	867,247	I	142,745	16.5
Waste and scrap materials	483,352	420,240	I	63,112	15.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	386,136	433,205	D	47,069	10.9
All other carloads	3,004,519	2,625,317	I	379,202	14.4
LCL traffic	10,975	12,743	D	1,768	13.9
Total Cars Loaded	20,248,795	18,814,584	I	1,434,211	7.6

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):

	1984	1983	% Change	
First quarter	231.1	196.1	I	17.8
Second quarter	235.0	203.9	I	15.3
Third quarter	234.0	210.8	I	11.0
Fourth quarter	215.7	215.3	I	0.2
Year	915.9	828.3	I	10.6

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